to the different sections treated of, especially among the reptiles and mammals. The subject of foot-prints is copiously treated, and with regard to the controversy respecting the origin of the so-called Ornithoidichnites, the editor has judiciously avoided referring them positively to birds. In the section treating of the Batrachia is the following interesting paragraph (p. 748) respecting the geological distribution of certain genera allied to the Perennibranchiata :—"The Labyrinthodont reptiles have been regarded as characteristic of the Permian and Triassic epochs, their remains being found in Germany and England in rocks of that age. The commencement of the existence of this family of sauroid-batrachians, however, is of great antiquity, since their relics also occur in the formations of the Carboniferous epoch. The *Archegosaurus*, a batrachian but slightly removed from the true Labyrinthodont type, has left its well-characterized remains in the coal of Germany; the *Parabatrachus*, in that of Scotland; and the allied *Dendrerpeton*, in the Nova Scotian coal-field. This last-mentioned great carboniferous formation has, however, afforded fossil evidence of the existence of the true Labyrinthodonts in the coal-period; for some cranial bones, imbedded in a mass of Pictou coal, lately sent to England by Mr. J. W. Dawson, and the subject of a paper by Prof. Owen, read before the Geological Society, were demonstrated by that distinguished palæontologist to have close affinity with the corresponding parts of the skull of the Triassic genera *Capitosaurus* and *Metopias*."

The fourth part contains general instructions for the collection of rocks and fossils, and notes of excursions, in illustration of the mode of investigating geological phænomena.

In recommending these volumes to the general reader, we feel assured that the editor has efficiently laboured in rendering his portion of the work as complete a compendium as possible of the palæontological history of the organic beings of which it treats, and in adapting it to the requirements of the geological student of the present time.

Genera Plantarum Floræ Germanicæ iconibus et descriptionibus illustrata. Fasc. 27. Auctore R. Caspary.

We are glad to announce the receipt of this part of the valuable series of plates commenced many years since by the lamented T. F. L. Nees von Esenbeck, and continued by several eminent botanists. So long an interval had elapsed since the publication of Fasc. 25, which contains the illustrations of twenty genera of Dipsaceæ, Stellatæ, Gentianaceæ, &c., edited by Dr. Schnizlein; and Fasc. 26, consisting of twenty genera of Umbelliferæ published by Prof. Bischoff, that we had begun to fear that there would be no continuation of the work. Our gratification is therefore the greater to find that it is really to be continued. The recently published part is from the pen and pencil of our correspondent Dr. Robert Caspary, of whose qualifications for such an undertaking we had the opportunity of forming an opinion during his residence in England. We are glad to add,

that this Fasciculus well deserves to form a portion of the valuable work with which it is connected. It contains plates and descriptions of fourteen genera of Cruciferæ, two of Papaveraceæ and the genus *Caltha*. These are illustrated in a rather more complete manner than was adopted in the earlier parts of the work.

Concerning the other two fasciculi mentioned above, it is hardly necessary to say that they are creditable to the eminent men whose names are associated with them.

We cannot conclude without specially directing the attention of our botanical readers to this work, as having the unusual properties of cheapness combined with excellence. It is quite essential to every student of European plants, and by far the greater number of the genera illustrated in it are natives of Britain.

The Microscope and its Application to Clinical Medicine. By Lionel Beale, M.B. 8vo. pp. 282.

The Microscope; its History, Construction, and Applications. By Jabez Hogg, M.R.C.S. 8vo. pp. 434.

The former of these works, as is implied in its title, scarcely comes within our range of subjects. Inasmuch, however, as it treats of the method of using the microscope, the means of examining and preserving objects, &c., we can recommend it as containing a tolerably satisfactory account of the present state of knowledge upon these subjects. It contains upwards of 200 woodcuts, and will form a useful handbook to those members of the medical profession who have not sufficient time to procure the information from the original sources; for it contains nothing new. We must observe, that in regard to the history, &c. of one or two points, it is in error.

Mr. Hogg's book is of a different kind. It is intended for a popular work, and forms one of the series of the "Illustrated London Library."

It may be said to consist of two parts: a series of quotations, in brackets, from various authors, in regard to microscopy and natural history, and a number of annotations, with poetical abstracts by the author, and is illustrated with numerous woodcuts. The quotations embody a considerable amount of information upon natural history and microscopy, for there is about as much of one as of the other; whilst the remarks of the author exhibit complete ignorance of both these subjects, as well as a total deficiency of classical lore. Moreover, the whole is written in a remarkably loose and clumsy style, well calculated to disgust an educated mind with the use of the microscope and microscopic observers.

Thus, we are told, that "the *Eunotia* is of the *Navicula* species." That "the scientific name by which the yeast-plant is known is *Fermentum cervisiæ*, or *Torula cervisiæ*." That "the leathery *boletus* is merely an enormous aggregation of the vegetable mould-plant or *mucor*." That "the disease known as *ring-worm*, infesting the heads of children, is one out of forty-eight different